

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 51-58 are pending in the application, with Claims 51, 54, 57 and 58 being independent. Claims 51, 54, 57 and 58 5 have been amended.

Requested Action

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Consideration of March 1, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement

The attached Information Disclosure Citation accompanied by a Submission of Information Disclosure Citation, lists the Chinese Office Action referred to in the March 1, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement, which was not considered because of the absence of this document. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the March 1, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement now be considered and that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the attached Information Disclosure Citation.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 51, 54, 57, and 58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,618,553 (Shiohara). Claims 52, 53, 55, and 56 have been rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shiohara in view of either Kobayashi '717 or Hatakenaka'542.

Interview Summary

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the telephone interview on November 16, 2007.

During the telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that he was inclined to withdraw the above-noted outstanding rejections if the independent claims were amended to recite that the designating unit is a single manually operable designating unit and that printing occurs in response to two designations of this unit without requiring any other manual operation performed on the image pickup apparatus between the first and second designations, as has been done in this Amendment.

Response to Substantive Rejections

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 51, 54, 57, and 58 have been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 51 relates to an image pickup apparatus comprising an image pickup unit, an interface, a reproducing unit, an operation unit, a designating unit, a display control unit, and a printing control unit. The image pickup unit is for obtaining a digital image. The interface is for connecting to a storage medium which stores the digital image obtained by the image

pickup unit. The reproducing unit is for reading out the digital image stored in the storage medium via the interface and causing a display apparatus to display the read-out image. The operation unit is for effecting a changeover operation of an image to be displayed on the display apparatus. The designating unit is for designating the image displayed on the display apparatus as a print subject for an external printer communicating with the image pickup apparatus. The display control unit causes the display apparatus to display a print setting screen for displaying a print condition determined in advance, in accordance with a first designation provided to the designating unit when the image pickup apparatus is communicating with the external printer and is in a state in which an image to be displayed on the display apparatus is changeable in accordance with an operation of the operation unit. The printing control unit is for instructing the external printer to print the image displayed by the display apparatus, in response to a second designation provided to the designating unit successively to the first designation. While the display control unit is causing the display apparatus to display the print setting screen, the print condition can be selected by operation of an operation member different from the designating unit.

Claim 51 has been amended to recite that the designating unit is a single manually designating unit.

Claim 51 has also been amended to recite that the display control unit is for causing the display apparatus to display a print setting screen for displaying a print condition determined in advance, in accordance with a first designation provided to the single manually operable designating unit when the image pickup apparatus is communicating with the external printer and

is in a state in which an image to be displayed on the display apparatus is changeable in accordance with an operation of the operation unit.

Claim 51 has been further amended to recite that the printing control unit is for instructing the external printer to print the image displayed by the display apparatus, in response to a second designation provided to the single manually operable designating unit successively to the first designation, without requiring any other manual operation performed on the image pickup apparatus between the first and second designations.

Also, Claim 51 has been amended to recite that while the display control unit is causing the display apparatus to display the print setting screen, the print condition can be selected by operation of an operation member different from the single manually operable designating unit.

Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in Fig. 9, S909 - S914, which shows that printing occurs in step S914 in response to turning the setting button on twice in steps S909 and S912. A description of Fig. 9 may be found, for example, in page 27, lines 6 through 21 of Applicants' specification.

In contrast, the patent to Shiohara is not understood to disclose or suggest a printing control unit for instructing the external printer to print the image displayed by the display apparatus, in response to a second designation provided to the single manually operable designating unit successively to the first designation, without requiring any other manual operation performed on the image pickup apparatus between the first and second designations, as recited by amended Claim 51. Rather, Shiohara is understood to require five pressings of buttons 17-20 to causing printing to occur (i.e., step S3, S5, S6, S7, and S8).

For this reason, amended Claim 51 is not understood to be anticipated by the Shiohara patent. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 51 be withdrawn. And because independent Claims 54, 57, and 58 have been amended in a similar manner, they are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 54, 57, and 58 also be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 52, 53, 55 and 56 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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